DC COMICS™
NIGHTWING™
26
THE NEW 52!
KYLE HIGGINS
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FEB 2014
RATED T TEEN
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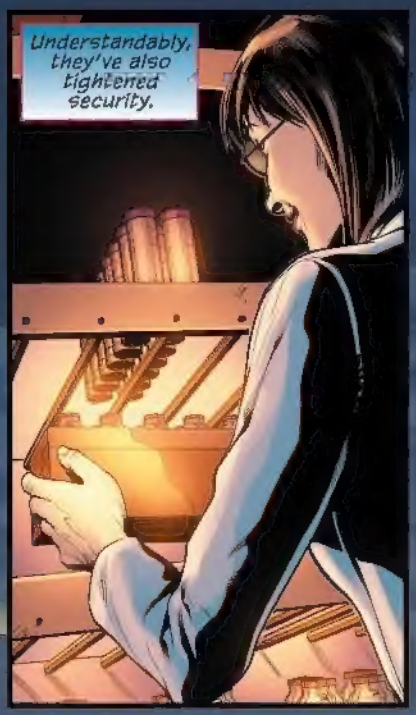
RUSH MEDICAL CENTER, CHICAGO.
A decade ago, scientists discovered a new element called Kanium.
Drexler Chemical was the first to develop its medical potential, converting the alkali metal with carbon and oxygen to create Kanium Carbonate.
They've been touting the compound as a breakthrough anti-psychotic, with hospitals in Chicago getting the first look.
PICKING UP THE PRESCRIPTION FOR PHILLIPS.
SURE.
But in the past few weeks, three trial hospitals have been targeted for robbery.
By someone posing as a doctor.
NO DANIELLE TODAY, HUH?
NAH, I GUESS SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL.
THE IRONY OF GETTING SICK AT WORK...WHEN YOU WORK AT A HOSPITAL.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
WELL, GOOD LUCK HOLDING DOWN THE FORT. IF YOU TALK TO DANIELLE, TELL HER DOCTOR COVERT SAID TO FEEL BETTER.
I WILL. DEFINITELY.
Of course, after hitting three hospitals the same way...

...It might be time to change their M.O.
IT'S OKAY...IT'S ALMOST OVER.
JUST STAY RIGHT THERE.
DEET

Rush Medical is the last hospital with any Kanium.


Understandably, they've also tightened security.

Nobody leaves without a bag check.
If somebody's planning to knock over Rush--

EXIT
STAIRS
--they'll have to find a creative way to get out.

Which is exactly what I'm counting on.

SO, CONFESSION TIME.

I'M KIND OF DYING TO SEE HOW YOU DO THIS LAST PART.
SOME STRINGS ATTACHED
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I MEAN, A ROOFTOP GETAWAY?
CLEARLY--
--YOU'RE A WOMAN--
YA!!
--AFTER MY OWN HEART.
I ALMOST FEEL BAD THIS HAS TO STOP SO--

--SOON...

OKAY THEN, I GUESS WE'RE DOING CARDIO FIR--

OH. IT'S YOU.

HI. YEAH. SORRY FOR THE KICK, I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
NO! DON'T TALK TO NIGHTWING! JUST JUMP!
BUT WHAT IF HE WANTS TO PLAY?
OH, HE'LL CHASE. THIS ONE WANTS TO PULL OUR STRINGS.
TOO BAD HE CAN'T KEEP UP.
Mall the mimic.

The last time I saw her, she had a knife to Johnny Spade's throat.*
And was, you know, talking to herself.
Go figure she's the one stealing anti-psychotics.
OH, THAT LOOKS FUN.
Two flips in, I think I get the mimic tag.
SEE ISSUE 19!--R.G.
She's copying my moves.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE A QUICK LEARNER.
OH, IT'S EASY WHEN YOU WATCH THE BEST.
YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOMETIME.

AND IT'S--
--WAIT, SHOULD WE TELL HIM?
OH, GO AHEAD. WE GOT THE COSTUME IDEA FROM *HIM*, ANYWAY.
FICK!
IT'S *MARIONETTE* NOW.
MARIONETTE.
GOT IT.
NO!
FBK
KSSH
WELL, *THIS* SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

Mali isn't the only thing that's changed in town.
As much fun as a two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment sounds... it's not. At all.
Especially with three people.
But with how expensive living on your own is--
--plus how many vacancies started popping up after the Prankster's attack--
--a three-bedroom totally sounded like the way to go.
NNG!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...
ROCK
I'm starting to have second thoughts

YOU'RE UP EARLY.
YEAH. I... THOUGHT I'D GO FOR A WALK. GET SOME EXERCISE BEFORE WORK.
HEY, NICE SHIRT. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU WEAR IT IN A WHILE.
OH. UH, YEAH...I JUST FOUND IT AGAIN.
And by found, I mean grabbed from an emergency clothes bag I keep on the roof.
DICK, THIS IS JEN. SHE'S ON HOLIDAY BREAK, SO SHE'S GOING TO HANG OUT WITH ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
I TOLD HER MOM I'D KEEP AN EYE ON HER DURING THE DAY, SINCE I'M WORKING FROM HOME.
HOPE THAT'S COOL.
SURE.
NICE TO MEET YOU, JEN.
YOU TOO.
JOEY SAID WE CAN GO SEE A SCARY MOVIE LATER, IF YOU WANNA GO?
AH, I'D LOVE TO, BUT I'VE GOT WORK TODAY. MAYBE ANOTHER TIME?
OKAY.
HEY, JOEY-- DID YOU SHUT MY WINDOW?
YEAH. I TURNED THE HEAT ON THIS MORNING. WHY?

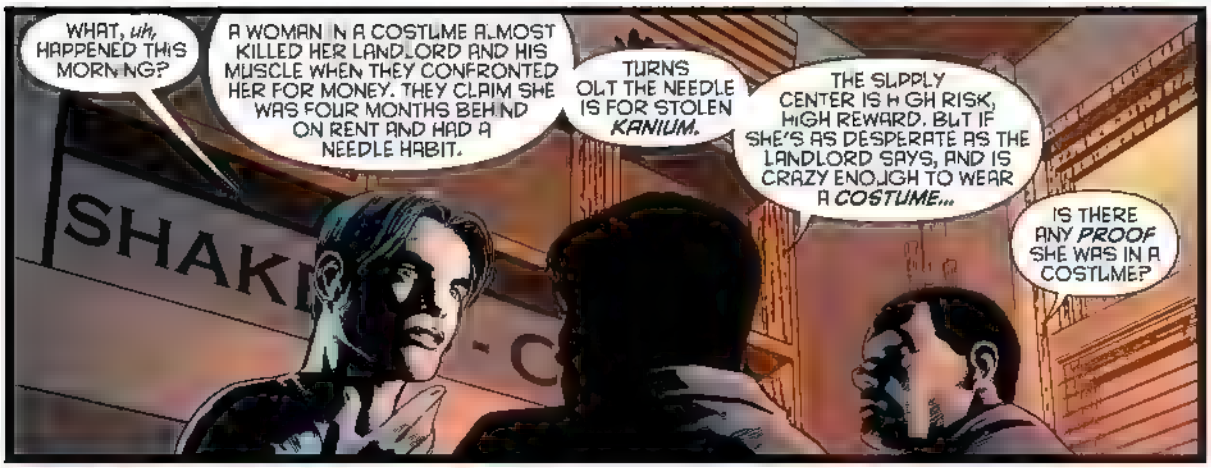
WELL, I SAW IT WHEN I CAME IN AND...I KINDA KEPT IT OPEN FOR A *REASON.*
HEY, IF *YOU* WANT TO PAY THE ELECTRICITY BILL...
IT WAS JUST CRACKED.
HEAT STILL GETS OUT, DICK.
ALL RIGHT, NEVER MI--
I PUT ALL THOSE MAGAZINES AND BOOKS ON YOUR BED, TOO.
THE ONES ON THE COFFEE TABLE?
YEAH.
I WAS *READING* THOSE.
WE *JUST* MOVED IN--YOU REALLY WANT TO LET THE PLACE GET CLUTTERED *ALREADY?*
NO...NO, I GUESS I DON'T...
Like I said-- living alone is ***expensive.***

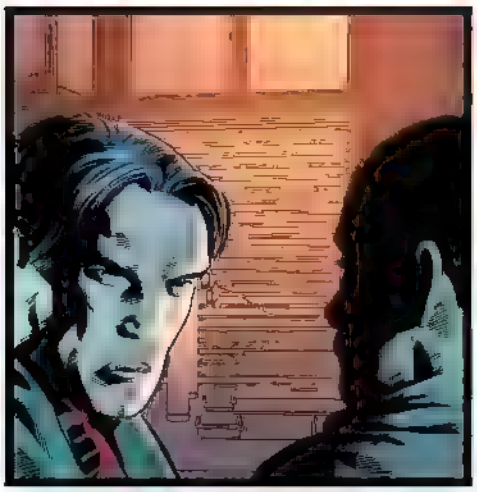
COME ONNN... JUST NEED A LITTLE GRIP...
YEAH. A VERY LITTLE GRIP.
HEY, WE HAD THE BAG. HE TOOK A GOOD SHOT.
NEXT TIME--
WHAT NEXT TIME? WE'VE GOT ENOUGH KANIUM TO LAST MAYBE A FEW DAYS. AFTER THAT--
HEY!
I GOT HER!

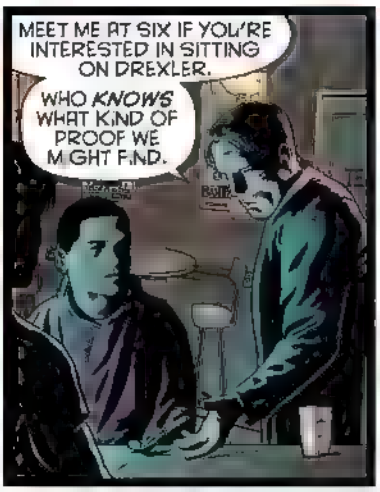
NO, NO--YOU NOT RUN AWAY THIS TIME, LITTLE JUNKIE. THIS TIME WE WAIT FOR POLICE!
THEY FLUSH ALL THIS TRASH DOWN TO LET. MAKE YOU WATCH.
LET GO.
LET GO!
GUH!
LET GOOO!
AHH!
SLIT HIS THROAT!
CRUSH HIS WINDPIPE!
N-NO...
D-DON'T... NOW!
POLICE! OPEN THE DOOR!
BAM
BAM
BAM

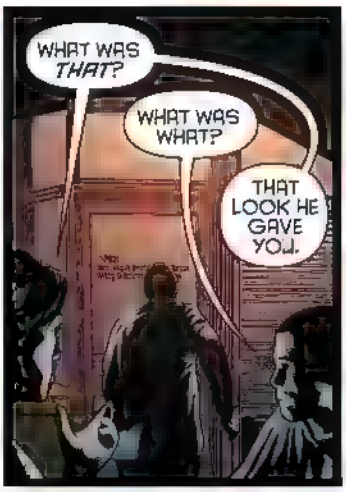
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!
D-DON'T DO IT!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
HELP MEEEE!
BAM
GUT 'EM ALL! SLICE THEIR FINGERS OFF!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
ST-STOPPP..
BAM
GGGHHHH.
GHHDD..OH. GHHDDD.
"SO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE OKAY?"

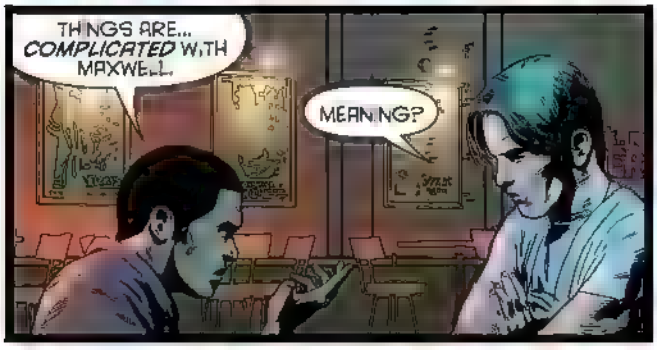
OH, YEAH. THE BOSSES ARE N.CE, THE PLACE IS CLOSE TO THE APARTMENT...THE WHOLE SITLATION IS GREAT.
THANKS AGA N FOR THE RECOMMENDATION. IT MEANS A LOT, M CHAEL.
HEY, NOT A PROB.EM. I KNEW THEY WERE HIRING, AND I LOVE THE GUYS WHO COME HERE. IT'S WHERE I GET MOST OF MY LEADS.
I MEAN, WITH ALL THE COPS THAT COME IN, IT'S CRAZY WHAT YOU'LL HEAR.
YEAH... I'M DEFINITELY LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT.
SPEAKING OF WH.CH...
GENTS
DICK, THIS IS DETECTIVE MAXWELL MORGAN. MAXWELL ..THIS IS MY ROOMMATE, DICK. HE JUST STARTED HERE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
YEAH... YOU TOO.
SO IT LOOKS L KE DREXLER CHEMICAL'S BR NG NG ANOTHER ROUND OF KANIUM THROUGH THEIR SUPPLY CENTER.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BET OUR ROBBER JPS THEIR GAME AND TAKES A SHOT? ESPECIALLY TH S MORNING.


WHAT, *uh*, HAPPENED THIS MORNING?
A WOMAN IN A COSTUME ALMOST KILLED HER LANDLORD AND HIS MUSCLE WHEN THEY CONFRONTED HER FOR MONEY. THEY CLAIM SHE WAS FOUR MONTHS BEHIND ON RENT AND HAD A NEEDLE HABIT.
TURNS OUT THE NEEDLE IS FOR STOLEN *KANIUM*.
THE SUPPLY CENTER IS HIGH RISK, HIGH REWARD. BUT IF SHE'S AS DESPERATE AS THE LANDLORD SAYS, AND IS CRAZY ENOUGH TO WEAR A *COSTUME*...
IS THERE ANY *PROOF* SHE WAS IN A COSTUME?




MEET ME AT SIX IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SITTING ON DREXLER.
WHO *KNOWS* WHAT KIND OF PROOF WE MIGHT FIND.

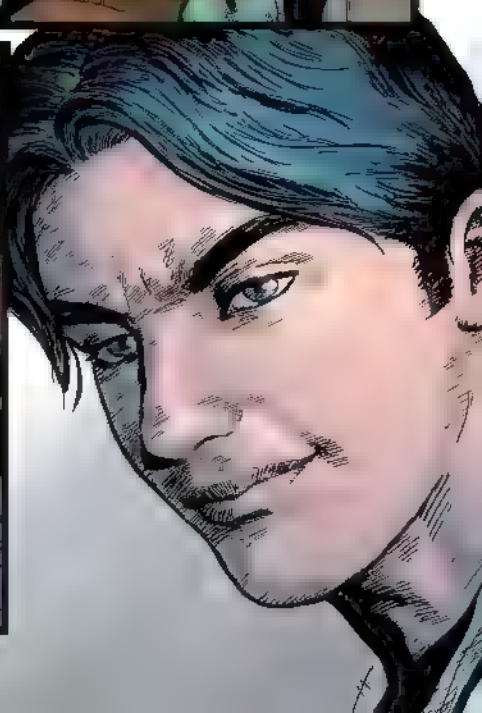

WHAT WAS *THAT*?
WHAT WAS WHAT?
THAT LOOK HE GAVE YOU.


THINGS ARE... *COMPLICATED* WITH MAXWELL.
MEANING?

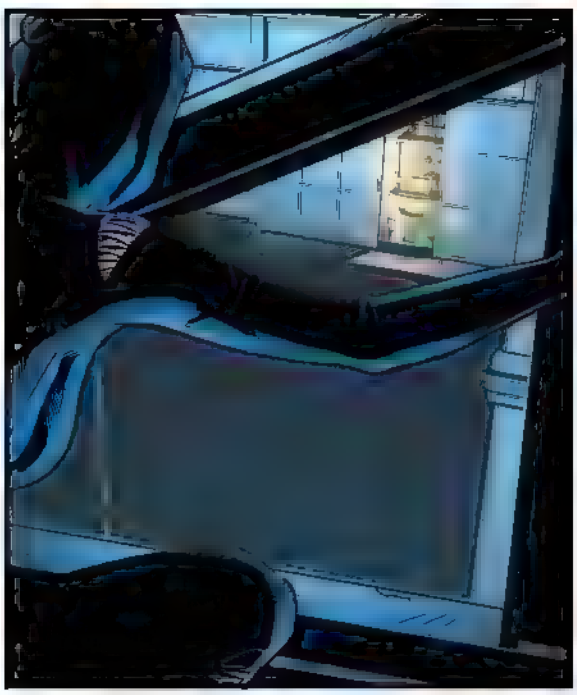
HE...HAS THIS VENDETTA AGAINST MASKS. MORE THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER MET.
AND AFTER THE PRANKSTER FOOTAGE, I'VE KIND OF BECOME THE "MASKS GUY" AT THE PAPER. WHICH IS *GREAT* FOR MY CAREER.

BUT YOU NEED MAXWELL TO GIVE YOU ACCESS.
AND AS LONG AS I PUT A SPIN ON THINGS THE WAY HE LIKES...HE *DOES*.
THAT... DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT, MICHAEL.

YEAH, WELL...I'M NOT REALLY SURE *WHAT* TO DO. I'M *TRAPPED* FOR NOW.
ANYWAY, SOUNDS LIKE I'LL BE OUT PRETTY LATE. I'LL SEE YOU LATER THOUGH.



LATER.
DREXLER CHEMICAL
SO ARE YOU THE ONLY COP HERE?
FOR NOW.
DREXLER HAS THE R OWN SECURITY. THEY TURNED DOWN POLICE ASSISTANCE.
I TOLD THE CAPTAIN I WANTED TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
"AT LEAST TO MAKE SURE THE SHIPMENT GETS INTO THE REFRIGERATOR."

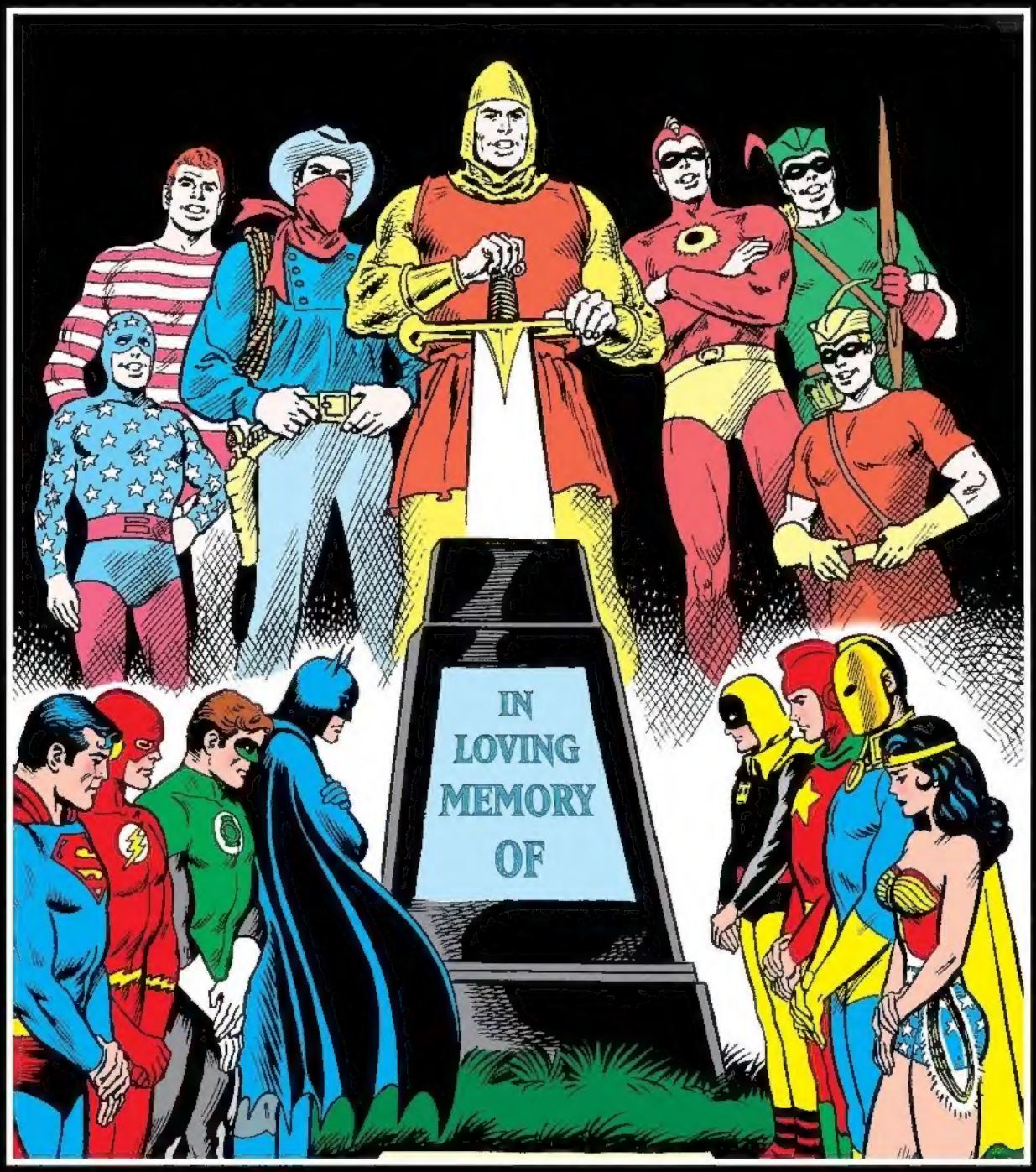


YESS.
WE'VE GOTTA STOP MEETING LIKE THIS.
MORGAN, HE--
HEL--

LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOUR DEAL IS--
--BUT IT'S *NOT* TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GET HELP.
OH, HE THINKS HE CAN *HELP* US!
HOW *SWEET.*
I'D SAY *STUPID.*
NO, NO, NO--THERE'S ONLY *ONE* PERSON WHO CAN HELP *MALI.*
NO...NOT *HIM...*
NOT *WHO?*
WHY, THE ONE WHO *CREATED* HER. AFTER ALL...

...SHE'S MY FAVORITE ALICE.
NEXT ISSUE:
MAD WORLD!

THIS IS AMBUSH BUG FOR CHANNEL 52 REPORTING LIVE FROM THE OUTER EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE--WHERE THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS ARE ON THE MOVE!
WE'RE TOLD THEIR NEW LEADER, EARTH'S VERY OWN HAL JORDAN, IS IN DANGER ON THE PLANET BELOW--BUT I'VE GOTTA ASK...WHAT KIND OF THREAT WOULD REQUIRE AN ENTIRE ARMY, AND A LIVING PLANET, TO RESPOND TO IT?!
WE'RE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THIS SITUATION, AND WE'LL UPDATE YOU AS IT DEVELOPS!
THOUGH IF THIS TRANSMISSION'S MOVING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, YOU SHOULD BE WATCHING THIS REPORT ON...TUESDAY...OF JULY 85,271? WAIT, THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
CHANNEL 52 BREAKING NEWS
ANYWAY! KEEP IT TUNED TO CHANNEL 52!



• Nick Cardy •

1920-2013

Wishing you a happy holiday from all the members of Empire.